

Is Your Equipment Safe When it Shakes?

Secure and anchor items in the laboratory

Message from Mike Wisherop, 18 August 2015



The Berkeley Lab is a stone's throw from the Hayward Fault, and we frequently experience minor shakers in the Bay Area. Even small earthquakes can topple items on lab benches, shelves, and the floor. It is important to secure items that could fall and hit a person, cause spills, or block an exit route. The Berkeley Lab has a [Seismic Safety Policy](#) that can help managers and PIs determine what items should be secured, and how best to secure them.

Facilities Division carpenters have been instructed on acceptable methods of anchoring typical furnishings. Contact [Gil Torres](#) or the [Facilities Division Work Request Center](#) for more information regarding seismic anchoring.

As a quick guide, the following items must be secured to prevent toppling or emptying of contents:

- Bookcases, file cabinets, storage cabinets, electronics racks, and other furnishings that stand more than 4 feet in height, regardless of weight.
- All equipment and furnishings that weigh > 400 pounds and are mounted at 4 feet or less above a floor level.
- All equipment that weighs > 20 pounds and is mounted more than 4 feet above a floor level to a vertical surface.
- All equipment that weighs >20 pounds and is suspended below a floor.
- Bookcases and other furnishings, regardless of height or weight, that are kept where they might block doors or exit passages.
- Equipment that weighs >100 pounds and is mounted to a table top.
- **160-liter Dewars and compressed gas cylinders.**
- Any equipment, storage cabinet, or **container that contains hazardous materials.**
- Heavy items on shelves where they might fall on personnel below.

Thank you,

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